## News Release



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## March 15 closure

## New and Improved New Brighton State Beach Goal of Year-Long Rehabilitation Project

CAPITOLA -- Renovated and expanded camping and day-use facilities and improved beach access will greet visitors to New Brighton State Beach when a \$1.8 million rehabilitation project is completed in about a year.

The popular state park, located south of Santa Cruz, will be closed effective March 15, 2003, while the much-needed rehabilitation takes place. It is expected to reopen in the spring of 2004.

"These improvements are necessary in order to improve visitor health and safety, protect valuable natural and cultural resources, and properly accommodate the extremely high level of public use at this park," Acting State Parks Director Ruth Coleman said today.

The work will include an improved entrance area, the removal or renovation of worn out facilities, the construction of 12 additional campsites with water and electrical service for recreational vehicles, and conversion of an existing residence into a visitor center. The year-long project will also improve the existing beach access trail and stairway.

The beach is in the town of Capitola, just south of Santa Cruz and off Highway 1. The beach features picnic areas, swimming, fishing and a nearby forest of Monterey pine and Coastal Live Oak. The camping area is on a bluff overlooking northern Monterey Bay.

Visitors may want to take advantage of other campgrounds in the Santa Cruz area while the construction is underway at New Brighton. They include: Sunset State Beach, Manressa State Beach, Seacliff State Beach, Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, and Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

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